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and Phat Diem

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Part I - Bui Chu

Military Situation

1. The following are the only remaining French-controlled posts and villages in the Bui Chu area: Bui Chu itself, Hanh Thien (106-27; 20-14), Lac Quan (106-18; 20-15), Ngo Dong, Luu Dong, Hac Van, Ngoc Cuc and Phu Nhai. Traffic is permitted between Hanh Thien, Bui Chu and Phu Nhai during the day. Provisions are sent to other posts either by sea or air.
2. Prior to 25 February 1952 the area in a four-kilometer radius around Bui Chu had not been attacked. Rumors that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) was sending troops to the area from Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa and Nghe An, prompted Vietnamese forces to attack a DRV village four kilometers from the Bishop's Palace in order to test the strength and equipment of the DRV troops. The Vietnamese were forced to retreat under aerial protection and as a result of the fighting, the offices of the Chief of Province, formerly near the Bishop's Palace, were moved three kilometers away to Ngoc Cuc. 25X1
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4. There are Communist strongholds within one kilometer of the town of Bui Chu. The most important Communist-controlled villages are Tra Doai and Tra Bao. The town of Bui Chu and the cathedral and town of Phu Nhai are poorly defended by insufficiently armed Catholic self-defense units.
5. On 27 and 28 March the Luc Thuy (106-20; 20-19) prison, 2.5 kilometers from Bui Chu on the road to Hanh Thien, was attacked by DRV forces. The prison's 160 military and political prisoners staged a revolt when the first DRV shots were

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heard at 1 a.m. on 28 March 1952. This second attack was unexpected since the first attack by a commando unit on 27 March had been successfully repulsed. The second attack was made by one company of regular troops and two Tu Ve (self-defense) companies divided into two groups, one charged with blocking reinforcements coming from Hauh Thien and the other with attacking the prison. As a result of the pressure both from within and outside the prison, the guards fled, allowing all 160 prisoners to escape.

Political Situation

6. Bui Chu is important to the DRV primarily as a rice-growing area. The DRV agricultural tax is collected in rice at an average of 400 kilograms per mau (3,600 square meters). The rice is then shipped to Thanh Hoa by sea.
7. The DRV district Administrative and Resistance Committees, composed of a council of seven men charged with military and political administration, have all been reorganized.
8. The DRV is circulating a new type of currency in the Bui Chu area. These new bills were printed in Czechoslovakia. One new Ho Chi Minh (HCM) piaster is worth ten of the old-type HCM piasters and four Indochinese piasters.²
9. Compulsory military service is imposed on all men and women of the DRV zones under 45 years of age.
10. DRV propaganda activities include meetings held every morning as the Catholic population returns from church. They have been more successful, however, in gaining control over the Buddhist villages in the area. Communist control is most widespread in the villages of Hoanh Nha (106-32; 20-17), Ha Lan (106-19; 20-11), Gia Cu and Tay Lac.
11. The DRV always tries to gain control of a village through widespread propaganda before making a military attack. If obliged to attack, the population is spared as much as possible, and captured prisoners, with the exception of field officers, are usually released.
12. The DRV has begun arresting Catholic youths of Bui Chu and concentrating them in Thai Binh. As a result, many of the leaders of various surrounding parishes have taken refuge in the area around the Bishop's Palace, where a force of 1,000 troops has been formed. However, this force lacks arms and food supplies.
13. The DRV has plundered many of the parishes, taking, in particular, the priests' automobiles, motorcycles and typewriters.

Attitude of the Population

14. At first the entire population, with the exception of the Catholics, welcomed the return of the Communists as a change 25X1
 However, they have been disillusioned by the high DRV rice tax, compulsory military service and unpaid labor.

Part II - Phat Diem

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16. The following towns, along Route Provinciale No. 10, have been evacuated and serve as buffer villages: Thu Chung, Dong Dac, (106-05; 20-06), Huong Dao (106-05; 20-06), and Tu Tan (106-03; 20-06). Houses along both sides of Route Provinciale No. 10, particularly around the French command post at Tri Chinh (106-04; 20-06), have been destroyed in order to prevent the DRV from using them as bases for sabotage activities.

17. The posts of Nui Sau, Phuong Nai (106-02; 20-07), Binh Hai and Tien Nong (106-34; 20-55), 10 to 20 kilometers from Phat Diem, have been completely destroyed. The entire coastal region from Bui Chu to Thanh Hoa is also out of French hands and is the route used by the DRV to reach Interzone IV.

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Communist Activities

25. The DRV Administrative and Resistance Committees have been reorganized in nearly all the villages, either clandestinely or openly. The villages are controlled during the day by the local self-defense units, but are raided at night by the DRV troops charged with the destruction of roads and bridges. The bridges at Huong Dao and Dong Dac have both been destroyed.

26. The DRV has begun arresting the most prominent members of the various Catholic organizations, primarily those between the ages of 18 and 35.

27. They have also begun taking rice from the Catholic population, whereas formerly they taxed only the non-Catholics.

28. A new type of Ho Chi Minh currency is being circulated in the Phat Diem area.²

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Communications

29. Entry into Phat Diem is prohibited until three o'clock in the afternoon. Automobile traffic has ceased along the important Route Provinciale No. 10, which is an asphalt road joining Phat Diem with the important post of Phuc Nhac (106-04; 20-09). Merchants and civilian travelers from Thanh Hoa can enter Phat Diem only by clandestine infiltration.
30. Nam Dinh (105-58; 21-18) may be reached from Phat Diem only by river. Commercial boats must travel under military escort and convoys leave Phat Diem twice weekly, on Wednesday and Friday. River communications were suspended, however, following a DRV attack on a commercial convoy on 8 April 1952. Several civil servants were arrested and the boats burned, but the Communists took none of the merchandise.
31. Communications between Phat Diem and Bui Chu are completely cut. Bui Chu may be reached from Nam Dinh only by plane.
32. The Phat Diem airfield is capable of receiving Moranes. It would be possible, however, to enlarge the field and accommodate larger planes.

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 Comment. For additional information concerning new DRV currency

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